# MONTEREY NEWS

**December 2018**
**Est. 1970 Vol. XLVIII · Number 12**


Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Swap Shop

Leonid Meteor Shower Over Monument Valley. *See Janet Jensen's essay, "In Praise of Dark Skies," on page 10.* *—Photo by Sean Sabatini*

One trucker insisted she was at the library. When she said she was at the intersection with Jerusalem Road, Aaron convinced her she was in Tyringham.
Library News page 2

They do not fly, in the way the birds, butterflies, and bats do—they glide.
Silvery Night Flyers page 16

Relations between those who identify as white, and those who don't, have been fraught ever since the social construct of "whiteness" was conceived.
Just a Thought page 19

Hello Snowlady page 25

The newly installed industrial strength lighting in the Monterey Community Center parking lot is a shock every time I see it.
Letters page 11

Year after year,
bewildered by the distance—
this far away from myself,
but still climbing.
My Difficult Country page 15

Would you like to read and discuss a stunning short story? Enjoy the company of a small group of readers who want to stay focused and "dig in?"
Community Center Events page 8

Please help us get home page 9

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse wellness clinic will be at town hall on Thursday, December 13. Nancy will have flu shots available. Not many residents have taken advantage of this resource.
Council On Aging page 4

Food Drive Update page 5

"It's a thankless job," they'll say, "We really appreciate the job you are doing." And I have to respond that, no, it's not thankless—after all, they just thanked me.
In My View page 4

The Red Cross will install up to three ten-year sealed-battery smoke alarms and one carbon monoxide alarm per home—free of charge.
Free Smoke and CO Alarms page 7

Monterey will have another winter with poor cell coverage. The good news is that by June or July of next year we will have cell phone coverage over 85% of the town.
Town Projects page 6

Did an emphasis upon the individual serve a more useful purpose at a time earlier in our history than it may today?
Alone/Together page 13

Goodbye Mel page 17

# Library News

## Library Building Project

Allegrone Construction has started to pour the foundation for the addition. The old building is ready for some framing and they have started to get ready for the new windows and some structural improvements. But the real story of November has been the weather. When it finally stopped raining, it snowed. A concrete pour that had been scheduled was postponed. But the concrete contractor came back on Saturday to keep the project moving. Our building commissioner and the Monterey Conservation Commission agent have inspected and approved the progress. Concrete test samples have been taken. The progress is not easy with this weather, but these builders are moving forward.

In the trailer visible in front of the library, Allegrone Construction's Aaron Singer, site superintendent, orchestrates deliveries, subcontractors, permits, and inspections. He's had to explain to delivery truckers that the GPS doesn't always work for Monterey. One trucker in particular continued to insist she was at the library though Aaron couldn't see her. When she finally was able to tell him she was at the intersection with Jerusalem Road, he was able to convince her she was in Tyringham. "Go straight and take the right that says to Monterey, and don't stop until the stop sign. Go straight across through the gate," he told her, and she delivered the new columns for the front. One piece at a time, Aaron is building this new library for Monterey, and we are grateful for his expertise and common sense. Once the concrete is done you'll be able to see the building taking shape. The wood framing is scheduled at the end of December—a nice way to start 2019.

Remember to check the building project photo blog on the montereymasslibrary.org website to see some of the progress for yourself. See page 24 for a few of the photos.

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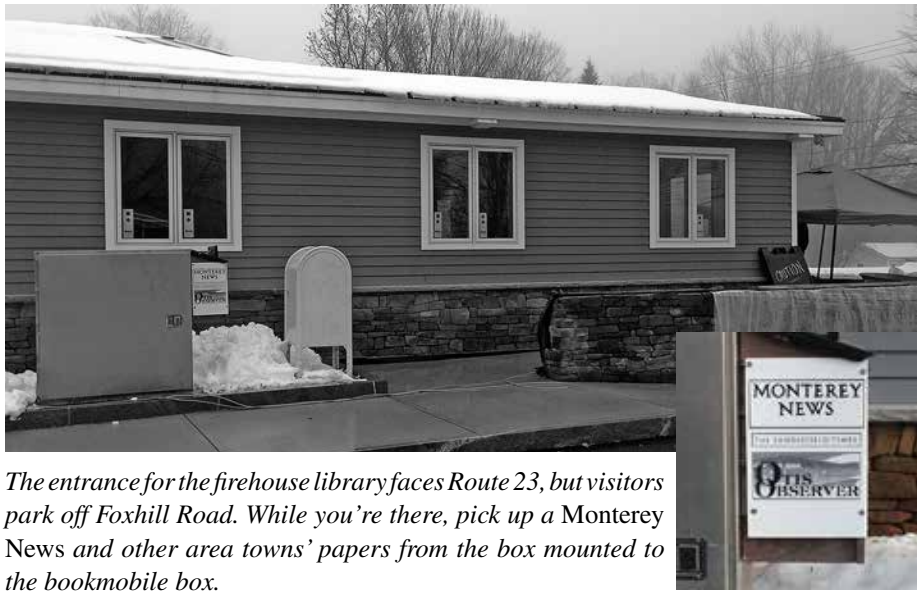


*The entrance for the firehouse library faces Route 23, but visitors park off Foxhill Road. While you're there, pick up a* Monterey News *and other area towns' papers from the box mounted to the bookmobile box.*

## Firehouse Library

We're settling into the firehouse library. We had quite a crowd on Halloween for Rona Leventhal, who spun scary stories for the younger kids. Ned Castille asked her for one more scary story for the older boys and they listened intently as the town got ready for the trick-or-treaters. Thanks to the Monterey Parks Commission for helping to sponsor her, and to the fire company and the Monterey Police for helping the costumed children of Monterey have a Halloween to remember.

The library will be closed for Monday, December 24; Tuesday, December 25; Monday, December 31; and Tuesday, January 1. Happy holidays and come in and check out our holiday books and videos.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director

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## Lake Garfield Working Group

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) met on November 19 in the Monterey Church basement due to the cultural council holding its meeting at the town hall and another meeting in the community center at the same time. As opposed to having any sense of inconvenience, we were happy to be part of such an active community and relieved to have the United Church of Christ available as another town resource.

Michael Germain, a member of the working group, gave a report of the recent Massachusetts Congress of Lake and Pond Association (COLAPA) meeting that focused on the coordination of interagency efforts in water quality management, as well as the ability of these agencies to more effectively guide and aid citizen proposals for managing specific issues facing our lakes and ponds. The issue of zebra mussels in Laurel Lake in Lee and Lenox was presented as a case study for how enhanced cooperation between various government agencies and concerned citizens could best serve the interest of all. As an example of the advantages of coordinating the efforts and knowledge of the community, it was noted that among world experts on zebra mussels is a professor at Simons Rock College in Great Barrington. As a member of COLAPA, Michael Germain informed the COLAPA meeting of his work with monitoring water quality in Lake Garfield, including the detection of potentially toxic cyanobacteria with the use of equipment furnished by the EPA. For those interested in the work of COLAPA, more information can be had from their website info@macolap.org.

Prompted by this report, members of the LGWG continued the discussion of how we might facilitate a region-wide monitoring of cyanobacteria, combining the forces of local and state government agencies, concerned citizens, and the scientific community, including academia. One favorable aspect of coordination in Monterey is that unlike Lake Buel, Laurel Lake, and Stockbridge Bowl, which are situated within multi-town boundaries, Lake Garfield has the administrative advantage of lying within one town boundary.

On another topic, LGWG member Dennis Lynch reported on the meeting he and Monterey Director of Operations Shawn Tryon had with the MA Department of Environmental Protection representative Malcolm Harper concerning future possibilities for grant funding through the MA 319 Clean Water Act.

Discussion continued on the needs and potential resources envisioned for weed control in 2019, including the best funding possibilities for long-term management of this perennial problem.

Before adjourning it was noted that this year's lake drawdown was temporarily halted to alleviate downstream flooding caused by heavy rains, but that the draw down has resumed and appears to be on schedule at the time of this reporting.

The next LGWG meeting will be held Monday, December 17, at 7 p.m., at the town hall unless otherwise posted on the town website. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

—Steve Snyder
Chair, LGWG


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## In My View
### Giving Thanks to Town Workers

I am often approached by friends and neighbors in Monterey who thank me for my work as a select board member on behalf of the town. "It's a thankless job," they'll say, "We really appreciate the job you are doing." And I have to respond that, no, it's not thankless—after all, they just thanked me. And I appreciate the opportunity to do my best to better our community.

I am taking this opportunity to pay it forward. As we approach the end of 2018, I am sincerely grateful to all our capable employees, and would like to thank those whose efforts keep Monterey going.

Visible on an almost daily basis are Terry Walker, town clerk, and Melissa Noe, administrative assistant, who continue to work together in town hall to keep operations running smoothly and efficiently. Out on the roads, I am always glad to see Shawn Tryon, director of public works, and his able team of Rich Crittendon, Kevin Fitzpatrick, and Jim Hunt, who keep the roads safe for travel, and tackle tough projects that keep them continually busy.

Traveling those same roads are police chief Gareth Backhaus, sergeant Brian Fahey, and the part-time officers. This department is committed to their roles as officers of the peace and to protecting and serving our community in so many ways, often working behind the scenes to address residents in need of assistance. I am indebted to our well-trained volunteer firefighters and first responders for their care, experience, and dedication.

Many thanks to our highly professional building inspector Don Torrico, library director Mark Makuc, and all the cheerful, helpful library staff who are going above and beyond this year. I deeply appreciate our financial team, which includes our tax collector Mari Enoch, assessor Don Clawson and his assistants, and our conscientious finance committee members.

Our attendants at the transfer station, Dave Gilmore and Beth Parks, keep the station and the swap shop clean and running smoothly while saving the town money. And there are many others who take seriously their commitments to serve.

Finally a heartfelt thanks to the numerous volunteers, too many to list, who generously give their time, energy, and expertise serving on committees, boards, commissions, and groups to bring this community to life.

Looking forward,

—Carol Edelman
Select Board chair

## Council on Aging News

For those who have signed up, a reminder about the senior holiday luncheon and concert at the Mount Everett school on Thursday, December 6, at 11:30 a.m. It's a good idea to be early—or at least on time.

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association wellness clinic will be at town hall on Thursday, December 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. She will have flu shots available. Not many residents have taken advantage of this resource, so I hope that means you've all gotten your flu shots already.

The movie this month will be *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, on Tuesday, December 11, at 7 p.m., at town hall. It's not likely that anyone needs a reminder that this stars Paul Newman and Robert Redford. One reviewer, Bob McCabe, from *Empire* magazine, said, "Butch and Sundance may be the most likeable film ever made." "Who are those guys?" Butch asked. The movie garnered three Oscars in 1970. Light refreshments will be served.

Happy healthy holidays to everyone.

—Kyle Pierce
Chair, Council on Aging

*Editor's Note:* In My View *is a monthly feature for this paper. Select board members have an opportunity, on a rotating basis, to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

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## Food Drive Update

Last month I asked the question, "Can Monterey step up to end hunger?" and the numbers have shown a big "yes." Thank you to everyone who contributed to the food drive. By midway into November we had collected over one hundred and twenty pounds of food. That's around sixty meals for neighbors who no longer must worry about food on their table.

This donation has greatly helped the Sheffield Food Assistance Program, and will now be distributed to dozens of families within the district. Lots of the food was for Thanksgiving, and more will help families for everyday meals. This has been a great success but it is not over yet. Originally the food drive was planned to continue until the end of November, but now it will be extended until December 15. This allows for more food to be donated before Christmas. If you would like to donate there are boxes at the library, town hall, and community center.

—Nadia Makuc

Nadia Makuc

## Christmas Eve Service
### Monterey Meetinghouse

The Christmas Eve service will be on Monday, December 24, at 7 p.m. It will be a service of lessons and carols, though also with a short sermon. This hasn't been our custom recently, and my hope is that the service is perceived to be open to all—the youngest children, the oldest adults, and everyone in between—the most devout believers and the deepest skeptics—who are not beyond a wild hope from time-to-time.

Given this, I'll hold my thoughts about the incarnation of God and its implications for us today until then—and even then I'll keep it brief. The fact is, though, that we've got some challenges ahead of us—as a society, as a whole world—as to how to live together, and why. Please mark your calendars, tell your neighbors, and be sure to join in.

Getting ready for that is what will be happening at the meetinghouse in the coming month ahead.

—Pastor Liz Goodman

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# Town Projects– Continued Thoughts

## Curtis Road Bridge

The Curtis Road bridge project is finished. After many weather related delays, including one particularly bad weekend storm that washed all the staging under the bridge downstream, and problems getting the correct steel, Tryon Construction finished the job. This was a major undertaking for the town because the bridge is such a key link to Gould Farm, our highway department, our transfer station, and our emergency fire trucks.

MA Department of Transportation inspected the bridge two years ago and found structural problems. This led to a reduced weight load classification which kept our loaded highway and plow trucks, fire trucks, and transfer station trucks from using the bridge. State monies were not available in a timely fashion because it was a town road and any possible funding sources were, at a minimum, five years away. DOT recommended replacing the bridge but the town could not be without it for an extended time period and the projected cost of just over $1 million seemed excessive. The select board reached out to an engineering firm that had helped us with the New Marlborough Road bridge and they proposed a repair that would get us an additional fifteen to twenty years at a cost the town could afford. We decided to go this route and bid the job out according to state bidding laws.

Stephen Moore

Stephen Moore

We received four bids ranging in cost from $275,000 to $400,000. We took the low bid from a local construction company, Tryon Construction, and with the cost for engineering, the town approved $290,000 for the project. One of the reasons we like working with local contractors is the pride they take in doing the job right and the ability to work closely with our highway department. Not only did they do a remarkable job but they came in $12,000 under the projected cost. A big thank you to Tryon Construction.

## Cell Tower

I guess the saying "all's well that ends well" describes the final chapter in the cell tower saga. If you remember, last month we had the unexpected snag in permitting when Jared Smith, who owns land abutting Hume New England camp, threatened lawsuits because of the location of the tower. Long story short—a compromise was reached between Mr. Smith, the cell tower builder, Vertex Tower, and Hume that moved the proposed tower one hundred feet further onto Hume property and away from

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*At left: The repair to the Curtis Road bridge involved boring holes for the nearly seven hundred high-strength bolts through three-quarter-inch high-tensile galvanized steel angle and plate, which had to be custom bent to conform to the gentle arch in the existing bridge steel.*

---

Mr. Smith's property. Not ideal for Hume, but being a good neighbor and understanding how important this cell tower was for safety reasons, they agreed. By the time the dust settled there were not sufficient construction days left in the year to get it built before winter, so Monterey will once again be at risk for another winter with poor cell coverage. The good news is that by June or July of next year we will have cell phone coverage over 85% of the town. A special thanks to Hume New England, Vertex Towers, and AT&T. Hume (and Kiswick before Hume) and Vertex Towers have been working on this with the town almost on eight years. AT&T has recently stepped up to contract with Vertex to put their equipment on the tower. Verizon has refused.

## Broadband

Our final Request for Proposal (RFP) was released through the state last month. We feel that this is our last best chance to bring high-speed internet access to all of Monterey. The RFP spells out Monterey's needs, what service is required, and the state monies available. We've had two companies request the prospectus and we look forward to opening the proposals in early January.

I think this is the final push. We're confident that we will receive at least one solid proposal. Once we have determined that there is a company willing to meet our needs we will then enter into negotiations with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) to clarify funding and their requirements for releasing the funds. Hopefully we be able to reach a mutually beneficial agreement and have Monterey wired in the next year and a half.

—Kenn Basler
Select Board member

## Free Smoke and CO Alarms

Age Friendly Berkshires (agefriendly-berkshires.com) is pleased to be partnering with the American Red Cross to promote their very-age-friendly "Home Fires" campaign. The Home Fires campaign aims to decrease the number of deaths and injuries caused by home fires. The Red Cross will install up to three ten-year sealed-battery smoke alarms and one carbon monoxide alarm per home—free of charge. This offer is open to any Berkshire County homeowner, regardless of age or income. While installing the alarms, the Red Cross will review safety tips with residents too. So far, only four hundred homeowners in the Berkshires have taken advantage of this program. We've a lot more homes that need this protection.

To get your free smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, call 1-800-746-3511 today to schedule your installation appointment before colder weather sets in. Please share this information with your friends and neighbors.

—Peg McDonough
Age-Friendly Berkshires

*Note: Sealed-battery alarms are rated to last ten years, at which point the entire unit must be replaced. This replacement schedule is recommended for all types of alarms whether they are hard-wired to your home circuits, or powered by batteries. If the sealed batteries fail before the ten-year period is up, which is not uncommon, the manufacturer should replace the units, so save your documentation.*


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## WiFi

We have joined the twenty-first century. Thanks to the efforts of the Town of Monterey and Fiber Connect, we now have high-speed WiFi in service at the community center, always available, and password-free. We are grateful to Adam Chait of Fiber Connect for his generosity, and to the select board for pursuing this project.

## Events Coming Up

**Holiday Cookie Exchange**

The second annual holiday cookie exchange will take place Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m. to noon. Bring a dozen, take home a dozen. Big ones, little ones, green ones, red ones, we like them all. Organized by Camp Hume.

**Short Story Reading/Discussion**

Would you like to read and discuss a stunning short story? Do you enjoy the company of a small group of enthusiastic, like-minded readers who want to stay focused and "dig in?" If so, read on, and consider signing up for a different kind of book group that will take place on Monday, December 10, at 10 a.m., at the community center.

Monterey resident Ellen Coburn is a retired English teacher and an avid reader of short stories. She has organized short story discussions in New Jersey and Massachusetts for small groups of no more than eight participants who read a single short story carefully and gather to do a "close reading." Unlike book clubs that use the book as a springboard for conversations of a more personal nature, these groups stay focused on the work itself and enjoy talking about all aspects of the author's creative process.

Sound intriguing? If so, please register and take part. The story is "The Tenth of December" by George Saunders. To access the story, do a browser search for "Tenth of December pdf." The first item will be "Tenth of December/New Yorker." A direct link to this story is available on the MCC event information page of our website. Registration is required but there is no charge to attend. Contributions to the Monterey Community Center are optional but always welcome. For more information or to register, contact Ellen Coburn at 413-528-0627, or by email at nonniejc@gmail.com.

**History Talk**

Bidwell House Museum will show a film of one of their prior history talks on the third Sunday of the month for three months, starting on Sunday, December 16, at 1 p.m. See their article on page 22.

## Events Recently Held

**Monterey Native Gardeners Workshop**

Julie Kern gave an illustrated talk on November 18 about "Fall Garden 'How To': Winter Sowing and New Bed Prep." We learned about no-stress winter gardening with tips on materials, tools, and sources for seeds. With the personal experience that Julie brings to this topic, she is an engaging and informative teacher.

**First Annual Clothing Swap**

We held our first Annual Clothing Swap on November 10, with clothing and accessories of all sorts finding new homes. Many thanks to Mary Makuc for spearheading this activity. See you with other clothes next year.

**Mandala Magic**

The final mandala "magic" workshop for the fall was held place on November 28. Susan Cain provided inspiration and guidance for many students through this series of very successful workshops. Stay tuned for more opportunities.

## Ongoing activities

**Board Game Night** is temporarily on hiatus but will start up again on a different night.

**Ping Pong:** Adult ping pong will be between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays, December 8 and 15. In addition, there will be sessions on Thursdays, December 6 and 13, from 4 to 6 p.m. Please come and enjoy the thrilling sounds of "ping! pong!" volleys with your friends and neighbors. No cost.

**Darn Yarners:** First Thursday of each month, December 6, then January 3, 2019, from 1 to 3 p.m. And starting in January, also on the third Thursday (e. g. January 17). This is an informal group of fiber artists (knit, stitch, mend, spin, crochet and such) meeting to work on individual projects in a somewhat social setting. No cost. Facilitated by Wendy Jensen.

**Singing for All:** Tuesdays, 7 to 8:15 p.m. except December 25 and January 1. Group singing of familiar songs from various genres in a friendly, neighborly setting, led by Oren Rosenthal. Donation.

**Library Book group:** The book for this month is *The Apprentice: My Life in the Kitchen*, by Jacques Pepin.

This month's meeting is switched to the third Monday, December 17 (instead of the fourth Monday due to the holiday), at 7:30 p.m.

**Balance Review:** This group, which meets on Wednesdays at 1:30, is not meeting in December.

Please call 528-3600 if you want to resume Balance Review or contact the Council on Aging if you want to see if Monterey can have a Balance Matters class again.

**Chair Yoga:** People with stiff, achy joints may want to try Chair Yoga, still happening every Tuesday, for free, at 9 a.m., with Connie Wilson. Chair Yoga helps with balance, flexibility, and stamina. Connie brings her sunny attitude to every class which warms up our chilly winters here in Monterey.

**Dancercize:** Barbara Cohen will once again lead Dancersize sessions this winter—her own version of Zumba-type activity—on Thursdays, from 5 to 6 p.m. The weekly sessions will start up on January 3, 2019. No cost.

See our Event Calendar: Visit us at any time through our website where you will find the event calendar, use policies, and other information, and where you can donate to the center through PayPal. You can always contact Mary Makuc, event coordinator, at 413-528-3600, or by email at calendar@ccmontery.org. We thank you for your support.

## November 2018 Contributions

Four more folks and families to be thankful for this month.

When people contact the *Monterey News* via email to be put on a distribution list, they sometimes ask what is a reasonable contribution. Any contribution is reasonable because it all helps the paper carry on. The inquiry is often answered by suggesting $25 to $50. The low number basically covers the cost of producing, printing, and mailing a monthly paper to a household. The high number helps to support the large number of free papers available to the community, and supplements the smaller contributions that come in from folks who may appreciate the *News* every bit as much.

So, regardless of how much you contribute, it is all reasonable, and it is all thankfully appreciated.

Ronald and Amy Rothschild
Eileen Clawson
Matthew Tannenbaum
Jeannne and Murry Bodin

## Community Potluck Dec. 19

### Elder Services

We missed having a potluck in November due to the third Wednesday being the night before Thanksgiving. We hope that doesn't happen again. For the December potluck, John Arthur Miller, options counselor with Elder Services of Berkshire County, will be joining us on December 19 to share information about their supports and services, and to answer questions and engage in dialogue about difficult decisions that aging loved ones should or need to consider, along with possible options. There will be discussion about Medicare fraud and scams, too.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, December 19, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome. Please join us.

—Kyle Pierce

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## In Praise of Dark Skies

I have long thought that anyone who does not regularly—or ever—gaze up and see the wonder and glory of a dark night sky filled with countless stars loses a sense of their fundamental connectedness to the universe.

—Brian Greene (author of *The Elegant Universe*)

On several occasions, alerted to the promise of cosmic fireworks during various meteor showers, I ventured out in the wee hours of the morning to take in the spectacle.

I was sorely disappointed. I live near the center of Monterey and was unable to find a good viewing spot within easy walking distance. Glare from the town lights dimmed the spectacle.

Before moving to the Berkshires from New York City, I had anticipated the pleasure of sitting out under a velvety darkness illuminated only by the moon, stars, and fireflies. At my sister's place in Tyringham, where I had often stayed, I had found the vast night sky and constellations awe-inspiring. Yet here in Monterey, just a few miles away, it's very different.

Until essentially a century ago, a dazzling night sky with millions of visible stars was the norm. This celestial view, as David Owen wrote in a 2007 *New Yorker* article, can be "a powerful source of reflection, inspiration, discovery, and plain old jaw-dropping wonder." Victor Hugo described meditating under the "solemnity of the night sky" as being a "transaction between the infinity of the soul and the infinity of the universe."

Leonid Meteor Shower Over Monument Valley*, photo by permission of Sean Sabatini. During the annual Leonids meteor shower, which peaked around November 17, about ten to fifteen shooting stars were visible per hour where dark skies prevailed. You can receive an astronomy photo each day in your mailbox, with explanation, courtesy of NASA.gov. To sign up for a daily stunning celestial treat, go to apodemail.appspot.com (Astronomy Photo Of the Day email).*

When artificial light first penetrated the nightly cloak of darkness over a century ago, it was a revelatory leap in human progress. Electric and gas lighting opened up more hours in the day, making the nighttime hours safer, more productive, and less restrictive. The incremental tradeoffs—and perhaps the subtle changes in our consciousness—were not immediately obvious. But in recent years, light pollution has been gaining an increasing amount of concern, initially from astronomers and stargazers, more recently from environmentalists, scientists, and public health professionals.

The issues go well beyond the diminution of pleasure and wonder. Poorly designed outdoor lighting wastes electricity, affects human health, and disturbs natural rhythms and habitats at a time when communities of plants and animals are under siege from so many directions. Unshielded lights disorient migrating birds. They confuse sea turtles and hinder plant growth. Recent studies point to excessive artificial light as being a major factor in what is considered an "ecological Armageddon"—steep recent declines in insect populations that are fundamental to many food chains and essential pollinators for much of the world's food supply.

Environmental catastrophes seem to unfold gradually, and then all at once, as Hemingway famously described the process of going broke. Technology, combined with the exponential growth of human populations, has given us an outsized ability to wreak havoc on finely tuned and balanced ecosystems. It gives one pause, for instance, to consider that one can purchase for under $200 at Home Deport a "wall pack" whose illumination can be seen from outer space.


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But technology can solve problems as well. And restoring the darkness is actually a problem that seems quite tractable, once there is the will. One night while working on this piece, I happened to go to a talk at Simon's Rock, where the campus is illuminated at night, but all the lights are carefully shielded, so the darkness is preserved and the stars remain bright overhead.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA, darksky.org), which was founded thirty years ago to educate and advocate on this issue, recognizes that outdoor lighting serves a variety of needs, including safety and commerce. But it also offers suggestions to minimize the harmful effects of light pollution, including a list of certified dark-friendly lighting. It suggests, for example:

- Use lighting only when needed.
- Light only the areas that need it.
- Use no brighter light than necessary.
- Minimize the emission of the especially harmful lighting on the blue end of the spectrum.
- Shield light sources so that the illumination is cast downward.

Much of the research suggests that some of the impacts of outdoor lighting are unintended and counterintuitive. Poorly designed nighttime lighting can actually decrease visibility by increasing glare, according to the IDA. Some states are saving money by increasing the use of passive guides along highways and runways—which seems to be the approach taken along Highway 23 as it curves into Monterey, where reflectors provide ample illumination. Neither is there much evidence that bright lights reduce crime. Forced by budget cuts to reduce outdoor lighting, some towns have discovered that rather than increasing crime, this has substantially cut down on vandalism.

December is the darkest month. And here in the country holiday lights are a welcome respite from the long expanse of winter gloom. But I believe part of the charm of holiday lighting is their contrast with the darkness as well as their celebratory, short-term use. Their charm may also signal a deep-seated human fear of the dark. But perhaps darkness, like the shadow side of our individual or collective personalities, can be more productively encountered than avoided. Perhaps the winter gloom would take on a different cast if the constellations and the Milky Way could penetrate it. Unlike the cones in our retinas that see color, the retinal rods, which help us see in the dark, take time to adjust. But once they do, seeing in the dark becomes more of a reality.

When we put away our holiday lights, perhaps we may want to be more conscious of the impact our lighting has on neighbors large and small. Perhaps someday Monterey will join the growing number of communities across the country—including a number of towns right here in the Berkshires—who are working to end light pollution. If anyone is interested in this issue, I welcome them to contact me.

—Janet Jensen
janetjensen@verizon.net

# Letters

## Community Center Lighting

The newly installed industrial strength lighting in the Monterey Community Center parking lot is a shock every time I see it. Brutally blue and bright, it sends its beam indiscriminately into surrounding homes and assaults the eye of every passerby. While I'm certain that good intentions and economics motivated their installation, I hope that some modification or removal can be effected. How much light is really necessary for our safety and comfort? I'm always puzzled by a homeowner's or a public venue's outdoor lighting which shines directly into our eyes, blinding us temporarily, and contributing to light pollution.

There has to be a better way.

Respectfully,

—Michele Miller

*Editor's Note:* Letters *are a way to extend conversation with the whole community. They are an opportunity to comment on town issues or actions; they can be an excellent way to express appreciation to the folks that do the "thankless" jobs or respond to urgent requests for help; or to quite simply draw attention to an event, an individual, a scene that deserves recognition. And feel free to accompany your letter with an appropriate photograph if you feel it enhances your letter. Send letters to montereynews9@gmail.com, or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245.*


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# Letters

## Gambles of Unpaved Driveways

I have noticed during the winters that Monterey has a fair number of driveways that the owners do not plow. They must trust their luck and providence that the houses will be okay through the long winter. But it is not just one gamble, it is several.

They are gambling with themselves, betting that all the steps taken to close up the house before winter will pay off by finding the house still standing the next year, undamaged, even knowing that all it would take would be a downed tree to upset all the care previously taken.

They are gambling with their insurance carriers that, should there be some damage, the insurance company will not care that the house was inaccessible. I have heard stories that insurance companies will cancel homeowner policies if they find the driveways unplowed.

These are gambles that owners can knowingly make.

But they may also be gambling that should an alarm be raised by an alarm system or a passerby noticing fire, that the fire company will respond. That they will arrive, that they will breech the roadside bank of frozen snow. That they will then begin hauling fire hose through two-three-four hundred feet or more of snowed-in driveway. That after that much effort there will still be a house to save.

And, that not one of the volunteers who responds (I know they are paid to turn out, but that is minor compared to the risks they take) will get hurt, breaking a leg or an ankle, or have a heart incident from the chore of hauling hose and gear, made much riskier by the snow and ice. The fire chief of a nearby fire company told me of one of his fire fighters who had a heart attack in just such a situation.

So if you gamble by leaving your house snowed-in, gambling that the house will still be there, that the insurance company will pay a claim, remember you are also making an unstated gamble with folks who have no other interest in your house aside from public service, who may take substantial risks, made much worse by heavy snow cover, to bail you out of your gamble.

—Stephen Moore

# Alone/Together

In all likelihood early humans could not have survived alone. The odds against an isolated individual were prohibitive. And for that reason and lots of others, people over the centuries gathered together and linked up with others and with groups of all kinds, most predictably the immediate and extended family. Also, the clan and the tribe, eventually the village and the town and the surrounding community. Those who mastered a trade probably joined a guild of the similarly skilled. Across Europe everyone was classified as belonging to a separate rung on the social ladder—serfs, servants, peasants, bourgeoisie, clergy, nobility, etc.

The group weighed heavily upon the person—provided identity and support of one sort or another, but also defined the boundaries and limited the possibilities. Most everyone knew and accepted their place, understood the framework that existed to be fixed and unchanging. Still, forms of individualism began making inroads. Elements of the Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment, and Romanticism directly contributed to such developments. Nonetheless group identification and connection continued into the modern era whether in the village, in the congregation, within a social class, or through affiliation with a trade.

All this led in some way to a reliance upon a broader community beyond the individual, to a conception of the general welfare, also the expectation that the state could advance it. This is what ultimately undergirded the emergence of socialist ideologies with their promises of wealth fairly shared and benevolence expressed by way of cooperative undertakings.

Group identities reappear naturally in America. Large families flourished, church congregations spread far and wide, countless communities were everywhere established, trade organizations arose and, as many noted, a bewildering variety of associations formed to reform society or to advance concrete objectives. But at the same time, the American society sanctioned and idealized a level of individualism the world had never before encountered.

The sources of this development were many and mutually reinforcing and included the absence of formal aristocratic structures, an extensive and bountiful land along with widespread property holding, the exhilarating promise of life, liberty and happiness, the guarantees of the Bill of Rights, the mass movement out West to the frontier, as well as Evangelical beliefs in personal regeneration. Individual achievement came to be viewed as something society was eager to celebrate and reward, whether it was the intrepid

frontiersman trekking through the wilderness, the ingenious tinkerer and inventor, the fearless gunfighter, the venturesome businessman and entrepreneur, the pluck and good fortune of the Horatio Alger hero, or even the notorious outlaw.

The elevation of the individual was a powerfully energizing and liberating belief. The individual was set free to fulfill his destiny and to realize his potential, to defy convention and "group think," to hit the road, become self-reliant and sever ties that proved burdensome, and to inspire others to do likewise. This produced a marvelously dynamic society, encouraged an emergence of notable achievers, as well as legions of colorful and unconventional characters who helped give substance to the American dream. But it has also come at a cost, short circuiting understanding and narrowing empathy. Individual ownership (private property) became sacrosanct, even when broader social priorities were at stake. Poverty, failure, and the absence of social mobility were readily ascribed to individual weakness and moral failure, discounting other factors at play. Social class analysis and conflict too often was ignored when the focus centered primarily on the individual. Labor unions once enjoyed some measure of success, but in time lost leverage and effectiveness because America preferred to believe that the individual worker would be better off once freed from the costs and constraints of union membership. Socialism has ever been suspect in America because it acknowledged the reality of class and supposedly favored a "leveling," as well as a broad distribution of national wealth, thereby threatening individual achievement and personal reward. Tax rates were always to be restrained lest individuals be denied just rewards for their labors and unique talents.

What is the proper relationship between extolling individual liberty, personal priorities and enrichment—and promoting the advancement of the common good and welfare? Have we put too much pressure on individuals to go it alone, even as the result is often disaffiliation, loneliness, depression, or worse? Should we not encourage and applaud individuals who cooperate, collaborate, and seek out connections that strengthen the bond of community? Will we move more rapidly in that direction now that women, more inclined to connect, have stepped up, "leaned in," and become a highly visible and forceful presence in American society? Did an emphasis upon the individual serve a more useful purpose at a time earlier in our history than it may today? Such questions deserve serious consideration.

—Richard Skolnik


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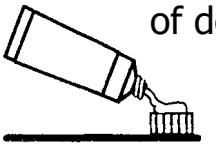

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## Hume New England

The third annual Hume New England free pancake breakfast was held on Saturday, November 17, and was a great success. Thank you to all of our friends and neighbors who ventured to our camp to share our tasty pancakes, eggs, and bacon. The morning was beautiful and sunny, bringing well over seventy guests. It was a great turnout from the Monterey community, as well as friends from as far away as Lee and Sheffield.

We also want to remind everyone of Hume New England's upcoming Christmas cookie exchange on Saturday, December 8, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Monterey Community Center. Please join us, bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies, and take another dozen home, or simply come to enjoy conversations and tasty cookies and hot drinks.

—John Szablowski, Camp Director
Hume New England Christian Camp

Lisa Szablowski

### Transfer Station Winter Hours

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| Sunday | 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |

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Class is from 9:30 to 10:45 Monday mornings. Please come at 9:15 to get settled. One only has to let go and let the gong do the work. Each experience is unique, effortless, and profound. Experiencing is believing. Meet Susan Cain in her home at 9 Heron Pond Park. Class must begin on time. $15.00 donation or 4 classes for $50.00.

Contact her at susancain9@gmail.com with any questions. Bring a blanket as mats are available.

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## The Climbing

We climb to find the meaning of our lives.
A little higher, and we're not alone.
This need to know, our faith as breath survives.

The light of suns—a wealth of days arrives.
We wish by dreaming. All we would have known.
We climb to find the meaning of our lives.

A light swims softly in these searching eyes.
And time is everlasting as is stone.
This need to know, our faith as breath survives.

The woods are green and whisper in surprise.
The sky, a wisdom to which all trees have grown,
and climb to find the meaning in their lives.

A wind of days will sigh as wind gone sighs.
As breath we breathe the faith of what we've known.
And what we've known—this faith as breath survives.

Through air as light as morning we arise.
A natural passage rising of its own.
We climb to find the meaning of our lives.
This need to know, our faith as breath survives.

—Amos Neufeld

A note from Amos Neufeld:

I have enjoyed reading the *Monterey News* for the last six years, and thought that submitting some of my poems would be a way of becoming more engaged with the community and also showing my gratitude to Monterey for the beauty and peace that it has given us. My poems have been published in journals in the United States, Great Britain, and Israel, and have appeared in several anthologies. I have these two poems forthcoming in *Prism*.

"The Climbing" is a villanelle, which first appeared in *New Traditions*, and "My Difficult Country," was published by a literary journal in England. My wife and I live part-time at 9 Gould Road, with our grown son and daughter, Ben and Maddie, who occasionally stay with us.

## The Gift

Ah, neighbor, neighbor
Do you recall?
You telephoned me
Sometime last fall.
"A ruffed grouse has flown
your way.
Get to the window
right away."
And there he was,
Flown from you to me.
What a gift!
Of hospitality.
I was utterly charmed!
Country life at its best.
An aura of magic.
All life had more zest.
Ah, neighbor, neighbor
Do you recall?

—Nancy Adams
February 1992

## My Difficult Country

The climb,
like exile,
is always difficult—

The journey—
this blind seeking, sometimes promising
a country of pure vision,
the marriage of flesh and peace.

Year after year,
bewildered by the distance—
this far away from myself,
but still climbing.

—Amos Neufeld

## Silvery Night Flyers

One of our wild neighbors is the Flying Squirrel, *Glaucomys volans*. That first word means silver, and the little squirrel is silvery on top and creamy white below. "Volans" means flying, and these nocturnal squirrels do soar through the air. They do not fly, in the way the birds, butterflies, and bats do. Like the "daring young man on the flying trapeze," they glide.

Some folks assume the Flying Squirrel is a figment of folklore, or maybe the Saturday morning cartoons with Rocky and Bullwinkle. The kinds of squirrels we know best are the ones abroad by day, like us. These are Grey Squirrels and Red Squirrels. Sometimes driving at night, we may see a small white creature flash across the road overhead, just caught in the gleam of our headlights. We might think it is some night-flying bird, maybe a small owl. Most times it is the lovely pale underside of the nocturnal Flying Squirrel, gliding to its next station.

These animals are about ten inches long, which includes a four-inch tail. The tail is flattened, topside to bottom-side, like the flattened tail of a beaver. It is the flight rudder. The only truly winged, flying mammal in these parts is the bat. The squirrels have a broad cape, a furry membrane of skin that stretches between the front and hind legs. The animal only weighs three to four ounces, but that cape gives it a soaring surface of fifty square inches.

A Flying Squirrel scampers up a tree trunk, as high as sixty feet or so. From there it leans to the left, then leans to the right, taking a bearing by triangulation. Then it curls into a ball and springs out from the trunk. Its trajectory is at first 30°, headed down fast, but it snaps out its legs and cape and levels, soaring as much as one hundred and fifty feet before coming to rest on the lower part of its target tree. Just before landing, it whips down that flat tail and curls its hind legs and cape forward, as it makes vertical contact with the tree. Immediately it zips around to the other side, in case it has been seen by a predator, and climbs quickly up, to prepare for the next soaring flight.

The squirrels can dodge branches, steering by use of the tail rudder, also by altering the shape of the cape. Moving the front and hind leg of the same side closer together creates slack and a cup in the cape. The squirrel turns with perfect timing and dexterity. On the ground though, the cape makes life awkward. Some folks have seen a mother Flying Squirrel sitting up on her hind legs to let her babies nurse. She holds the cape out of the way with her front paws.

Anyone with a hunting cat may see a Flying Squirrel, and sometimes all that is left after the cat has eaten will be that flat little tail. We see Flying Squirrels here thanks to our cat, also thanks to our bird feeder, which is a platform on a tall post just outside the kitchen window. We also have a cylindrical feeder hanging from the roof. The squirrels sometimes "fly" to that hanging tube and manage to land on its slick surface and hang on there to nibble out the birdseed. They also navigate a glide-path to the platform feeder on the pole, landing easily despite its glass roof.

The cat mostly watches them from the indoor windowsill or kitchen table, but sometimes he meets one outside on the ground, where he is much more agile than the squirrel.

These squirrels don't hibernate. They will store up nuts in a hollow tree, make a nest in there, and sometimes live closely with as many as fifty other Flying Squirrels. In 1849 John James Audubon and John Bachman were out in a grove of nut trees near Philadelphia and this is what they saw (as recounted by Ernest Thompson Seton in his *Life-Histories of Northern Animals, 1909*): "About sunset the Flying-squirrels began to appear, until not less than 200 were in sight, sailing and coasting in air from tree to tree, scores at a time, crossing and recrossing in all directions, apparently for the joy of flight. . . When it was too dark for further observation, the naturalist left them, but the party was still at its height."

—Bonner McAllester

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# In Remembrance
## Mel Dyer-Bennet

Melvene Dyer-Bennet (née Ipcar) died Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at the Center for Extended Care at Amherst, in Amherst, Massachusetts. She was born on February 14, 1916 in New York City, the youngest child of Aaron and Rose Ipcar. Mel grew up in New York, with an interval of two years in Youngstown, Ohio.

During her teens, Mel was a serious student of piano and composition. After graduation, her interest switched to dance and she was almost immediately offered a scholarship by Mary Wigman at the Hanya Holm Studio in New York, a dance school founded by Holm, a Wigman protégé. Mel studied and performed with Holm for several years.

In 1944 she married the singer and guitarist, Richard Dyer-Bennet. They left New York in 1947 to found a school of minstrelsy in Aspen, Colorado. In 1949, the couple returned to the east coast where they lived briefly in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and Brookhaven, Long Island, and finally settled in the Berkshires, in 1951. Mel was hired to teach dance at the Austen Riggs Center, a psychiatric hospital in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Her supervisor there, psychoanalyst Erik Erikson, became her good friend and mentor. It was during this period that Mel began to develop her approach to the therapeutic use of the body and motion, which at Erikson's suggestion she eventually came to call Motility Therapy. During this time Mel also worked closely with the anthropologist, Margaret Mead, who was looking for a way to describe the movement of the people she observed in the course of her work. Mel also worked for many years with the optometrist Dr. John Streff, Director of Vision Research at The Gesell Institute of Child Development in New Haven, Connecticut, a collaborative exchange that enhanced the work of both participants.

Over many decades, Mel continued to develop her innovative approach to revealing psychological intention in order to facilitate positive change. She maintained a private practice in New York City and the Berkshires, trained a number of students, and presented papers to the American Psychological Association.

In her private life, Mel felt a deep connection to natural things: she tended flowers and a large vegetable garden, kept backyard birds well fed, and thoroughly enjoyed visits from families of raccoons and the occasional black bear.

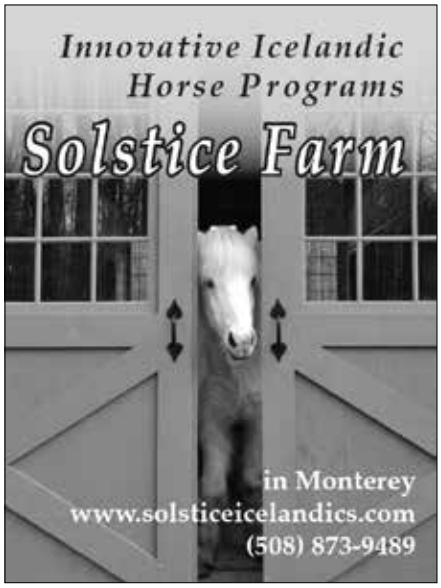
People in Monterey might remember her for having organized a Nuclear Freeze event in the 1980s in Great Barrington, at which a number of notable people spoke. She chaired the Democratic Committee in Monterey for a few years after her husband, Richard, died in 1991. She also wrote a series of articles for the *Monterey News*, explaining what various town offices were about, and what the duties were of the people filling those positions. Chief Gareth Backhaus was one of the people she interviewed at some length, which he probably recalls. For a long time afterward there were people she encountered who mentioned those articles to her and thanked her for them. I think it was perhaps her most valuable contribution to the town that was home to my family from 1953 until 2010.

She was a lifelong Democrat and progressive thinker, a passionate, intuitive, visceral, and unique woman who would have been driven mad by the current political era, had she still been aware of current events.

Mel was predeceased by her husband, Richard, and siblings Adolf, Julia, and Helen. She is survived by her daughters, Bonnie and Brooke, her many grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and her sister-in-law Miriam.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that those with fond memories of Mel contribute something of themselves or their resources to enhance the lives of people, animals, bees, or trees, all of which Mel cared about deeply. Final arrangements will be private.

— Brooke Dyer-Bennet



## Here's a Thought

*Starting when I was the little girl in the hat in the front row of this photo, my family and I were invited to a harvest celebration hosted by Dema Crouse Stoffer, third from the left in the back row. As you'll see, her influence stays with me.*

Like most of the folks who were born in, or found a home in, Monterey, I don't recall not loving the natural world. I grew up near the largest string of freshwater lakes on the planet, and spent time standing in awe at the edge of the thundering waters that fall over the cliff at Niagara to unite the western lakes with Lake Ontario, the Saint Lawrence Seaway, and then the Atlantic Ocean.

When I was small, elm trees canopied my home city's residential streets with green umbrellas from May through September, and stood sentinel the rest of the year. Summers rolled by from spots around the farmhouse in the green and gold valley where Papa, my mom's father, grew up. But a primary person who let me know that she saw my love of the land, and who looked into me deeply, was Dema Crouse Stoffer.

Dema was a member of the Allegany Seneca tribe, the Iroquois people known as the Keepers of the Western Gate. She was born in 1897 on the Allegany Reservation located in New York state, on the Pennsylvania border. She attended Tunesassa School, a Quaker boarding school on the reservation, which also accepted a few day students.

In 1947, the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) relocated its office to Salamanca, a city within the borders of the reservation, after eight years in Buffalo, more than seventy miles away. BIA superintendent, William B. Benge, announced his pleasure at the move back to "the place where this office belongs" on Thursday, August 28, in the *Salamanca Republican-Press*. My Aunt Nora, clerical assistant to Mr. Benge, and the only other employee in the office, moved to Salamanca along with her job.

It speaks well for Dema, Aunt Nora, and others, both Senecas and Anglos, that they established friendships which lasted beyond my aunt's tenure in the BIA office. What that meant for me was an annual trip to a log cabin in the Red House section of Allegany State Forest where Dema hosted an annual harvest celebration day.

Care to join me there? Outdoors, we'd share the crisp air, clear blue sky, and dense forest home of the black bears, white-tailed deer, raccoons, and other creatures who lived on the land. Indoors, we'd inhale the fragrance of wood smoke from a fire in the hearth, headily combined with the scents of roasted meat, coffee, cinnamon, apples, baked squash, baked beans, cornbread, and other gifts of autumn's abundance. It was always a time filled with laughter, happy conversation, immense quantities of food, outdoor antics and board games, as well as counting the number of deer and bears that strolled by.

As a child I never realized that there was an underbelly to this festive generosity. I didn't realize that the cabin wasn't hers, or that each year she'd borrow use of it for the day from the Mayor of Salamanca, for whom she worked. When he, or Dema, I'm not sure which, retired, the cabin was no longer available to her. That loss happened at about the same time my parents divorced, which consumed other losses for me at that time. I didn't realize she lived elsewhere on the reservation until the day I found out, well after the fact, that the people, and the government, behind the Kinzua Dam project had claimed, and taken, her house.

Her house was sacrificed, along with many others, when the land was drowned, but that wasn't the whole Kinzua underbelly. There were graves on the land, now buried under the lake the dam created, too. Imagine that your home, your land, and the bones of your ancestors vanish under water in a single, legal, protracted, swoop. No recourse.

A few weeks ago I saw a documentary, *The Wellbriety Journey to Forgiveness* (whitebison.org). Its goal is to educate its audience about aspects of trauma suffered by Native Americans at the hands of lighter-skinned people acting on behalf of the Federal government. This was no irresponsible trashing of Anglos, but a deeply-felt, fact-driven presentation about Native anguish and mainstream Anglo responsibility.

The hallmarks of genocide, as described by the United Nations, and referred to in the film, include this: intentionally causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of an ethnic group. Kinzua didn't legally qualify under the UN ruling as genocide, however—the stated intent of construction was to create a dam to protect the Ohio River Valley, including Pittsburgh, from further flood devastation.

Separating the Seneca people from their homes and roots in order to accomplish that intent wouldn't have been possible at all without the previous one

hundred and fifty years of national collusion. The treaty broken by the construction of Kinzua Dam was signed by George Washington. Machinations to make the document null and void in this case came to a head between 1955–1959. These are also some of the carefree years I spent exploring the world in Allegany State Forest.

From the start—the idea was first discussed before the start of World War I—it was clear that someone would have to be displaced. The advice of General John Bragdon, a trusted loyalist to President Eisenhower, with ties to Pittsburgh, was ultimately crucial in the final decision to bypass alternatives to the Army Corps of Engineers' plan. One alternative was more expensive and displaced more people, primarily white folks in four small Pennsylvania communities, but was said to have been able to generate more electrical power and provide at least as much, perhaps better, protection for the Ohio River Valley, than the plan put into place as Kinzua. Musical references are available from both a Cree woman and an Anglo man reflecting on the decision: *Now That the Buffalo's Gone*, by Buffy Ste. Marie, and *As Long As the Grass Shall Grow*, by Johnny Cash.

Another of the UN genocide hallmarks is forcibly transferring children of one group to another group. Most of the children boarding in the "Indian schools" eventually returned to their families, but they returned divorced from their names, language, habits, clothing, foods, ancestors, their physical and spiritual geography, and their natural identification with their tribes. They'd already been internally transferred to the European mainstream culture, fractured in the process, no matter how successful the process appeared. Perhaps Dema was less vulnerable than most since she wasn't physically displaced, but went to school on her own native soil.

Why is any of this relevant today? Relations between those who identify as white, and those who don't, have been fraught ever since the social construct of "whiteness" was conceived. As with Kinzua, the taproot is long and deep. It would be so easy at this point to throw in the towel and condemn a convenient him, or her, or them, for that sad state of affairs,

*And now, here I am goofing around with my six-year old grandniece over Thanksgiving, carrying on the tradition of influence, but now on a rural road in Arizona.*

and the currently sad affairs of state. But there is another way: active support of people in need. You know: Do unto others…, Bring me your poor, your tired…

The children recently herded into camps after crossing our southern border weren't interested in whatever the stated purpose of their incarceration was. They're kids; it's safe to assume they, like the boarders at the Indian schools, basically wanted to be not terrified, and to be reunited with their families. The rationale, as I understand it, was to convince undocumented immigrants not to bring their children here. If so, will someone please explain how damaging children is a compassionate, worthy, or even long-term-effective way to accomplish that goal? A naïve question, I know, but still a good one.

Another good question: If those families had crossed the border from the north and speaking English, would they have received the same treatment? Would you, or I, have had a different response?

As of October 1, seventy of the children separated from their families under the overturned April 2018 ruling were still being held. That's a tremendous success, compared with the more than thousand children held six months before then, but it's still seventy children sustaining unnecessary and prolonged damage.

The ACLU is doing its best to help them. If you're so inclined, why not send the ACLU a Hannukah, or Christmas, or end-of-year, donation?

—Mary Kate Jordan

## Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us December 19 to hear:
John Arthur Miller

Options counselor
Berkshire County Elder Services

See the community potluck supper article on page 9.

6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
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## Rock Doves

The ordinary pigeon, frequently seen flying over the barns of Gould Farm, or perched on the roofs of Monterey buildings, is actually classified as a Rock Dove. It is so named for nesting and perching on rocky ledges, outcroppings, and under bridges. Not native to this country, the Rock Dove is a descendant of birds brought to Nova Scotia by the French in the early seventeenth century. Since then they have proliferated far and wide into farm country and, more noticeably, into cities. In public squares especially, the frequent refuse of messy people has devalued the doves' presence in the eyes of metropolitan bird watchers. They have earned a bad nickname as "rats with wings." For that reason, pairs of Peregrine Falcons, who nest on ledges of skyscrapers, are welcomed as aerial predators to limit proliferation of the urban doves.

American attitudes about this kind of proliferation can be traced back to the tragic tale of extinction of native Passenger Pigeon. The Passenger Pigeon was perceived to be of unlimited abundance. Ornithologist John James Audubon famously described flocks that stretched for miles, taking three days to pass overhead, darkening the sky. He estimated that such a flock contained over a billion birds. However, since their annihilation, we have learned the hard lesson of environmental extinction. It teaches that there is an environmental peril of such perceived overabundance, leading to wanton disregard and sport killing. This was almost true for the bison herds which were driven to near extinction by simultaneous destruction of habitat, overhunting, and public apathy.

Benjamin Franklin said, "We don't appreciate anything until we don't have it." We have finally learned to identify species as endangered long before the final and fatal damage is near. However, replacement reproduction of such large numbers is usually a much slower recovery process by comparison. For pigeons, a nesting pair is limited to two eggs at a time, and chicks are raised slowly, and are painstakingly fed by parents with a regurgitated white fluid mixture of grain and water known as "pigeon's milk," as in my illustration.

Rock Doves have been raised for many human purposes, particularly as carrier pigeons both for sport and for heroic purposes in wartime. It is possible, using trained pigeons, to relay a written message over long distances, by writing on light paper inserted into a small tube tied to one leg.

Using carrier pigeons, it is said that Romans sent reports of Caesar's conquest of Gaul back to Rome, and news of Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo was sent back to England. In World War I, pigeon carriers on the front lines were decorated with the English Dickin medal, a Victoria's Cross for animals, and the French *Croix de Guerre* for saving human lives with their homing instincts. During World War II, they played a vital role in the invasion of Normandy, as radio messages were apt to be intercepted by the enemy.

This homing instinct is explained by recent National Geodetic research. It surmised that they can detect low-frequency infrasound waves from the earth's magnetic fields with the help of iron particles in sacs above their bills. This hypothesis is referred to as "olfactory navigation," which plots a map of impulse in their brain.

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## In Remembrance
### David Logan

David Jopson Logan of Monterey died peacefully on November 7, 2018, after a short illness.

He was born July 2, 1933, in Meriden, Connecticut, the son of Judson Carr Logan Jr. and Leora Ryan Logan. He attended high school in Newington, Connecticut, and graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1955, with a degree in mechanical engineering. After graduation, David took a position with Bethlehem Steel Company but two years later returned to Gerber Scientific, the small start-up company where he had worked in college. He stayed with Gerber for fifty-three years, first rising to the position of senior vice president of engineering, then as president of two subsidiaries he founded: Gerber Scientific Products in 1980 and Gerber Optical in 1987. During his innovative career, David was awarded 187 U.S. and foreign patents covering more than fifty inventions in the fields of computerized drafting, eyeglass lens manufacturing, and computerized sign making.

In addition to an active career, David had many hobbies. He loved woodworking, especially boatbuilding. He built thirteen wooden boats in his lifetime, including a thirty-two-foot cruising sailboat, replicas of an electric-powered steam launch, and a 1920s-era duck boat. An avid sailor, he sailed on both Long Island Sound and on Lake Buel in the Berkshires, where he docked his beloved 1933 Chris Craft. After retiring, he enjoyed his winters skiing in the snowy and scenic vistas of Stowe, Vermont.

David was a long-time resident of Monterey, summering annually at Lake Buel, his favorite place in the world. He was active in several positions in the community, including many years with the prudential committee of the Lake Buel District and on the Monterey Conservation Commission.

He is survived by his daughter, Nancy Logan Anderson and husband David; his son Michael Logan and wife Wendy; his son Donald Jensen and wife Hilary; and his four grandchildren: Kelsey and Jacob Anderson, and Evan and Noah Jensen. David was preceded in death by his wife, Lucille Ashley Logan; his daughter Elizabeth Jensen; his brother, Robert Logan; and his close companion, Jane Black.

The funeral service celebrating his life was held on Tuesday, November. 13 and was conducted by Rev. Brent Damrow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington or the Lewey-Body Dementia Association. To send remembrances to the family, go to finnertyandstevens.com.

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This finding confirms that wild creatures often have greater awareness of earthly conditions that we humans may have lost through evolution. The sport of flying homing pigeons is three thousand years old, and is still popular with groups called "pigeon fanciers." Around our area they don't let pigeons fly during the fall hawk migrations for obvious predatory reasons.

Pigeons and doves are both members of the Columbidae family, and share similar features. Generally doves are smaller than pigeons. The white dove is still a symbol of peace and hope, but domesticated white pigeons, bred to be white, are used rather than wild doves for releasing ceremonies at weddings, funerals, and some sporting events. Both species subsequently share a place in historical accounts, such as in the biblical account of Noah's ark. Descending from the skies over the continental flood waters, a turtle dove appeared with a laurel branch in its beak to convey the message that dry land had finally appeared.

The spiritual metaphor of a dove descending with a promise of hope for all creatures on Earth somehow still lives on for us to this very day. Perhaps it may also be portent for our future. May the heavenly motions of the planetary cycle also provide recurring reincarnation conditions on Earth for all living things. With our growing awareness, and loving care, we may be able to reverse the damage we have done to life around us, and perhaps global warming.

—George B. Emmons

*(Note: To learn more about recent research in pigeon navigation, go to the Journal of Experimental Biology at jeb.biologists.org/content/216/16/3123.)*


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# Bidwell House Museum
## Exterior Accessibility Work

The Bidwell house may be closed for the season but the museum is still planning a few events to brighten the dark winter months. Starting in December, on one Sunday afternoon each month, we will screen a lecture from our much-loved history talk series, to be shown at the Monterey Community Center. The first Bidwell History Talk Replay will happen at 1 p.m. on Sunday, December 16, with a talk by John Demos. Coffee and cookies will be served. More details about the talk can be found on our website in early December.

As we slow down and plan for 2019, we thought it would be a good time to provide a closer look at the exterior accessibility work that was completed at the museum earlier this year. In 2016 the museum embarked on an extensive renovation project to ensure the long-term preservation of the house which included new roofing, new gutters, replaced rotted support beams, and improved insulation, lighting, and electrical wiring. That phase of the project was finished in the summer of 2017.

In the fall of last year Tryon Stoneworks began the next phase of the renovation—the important job of improving accessibility to the museum. This work included re-grading the lawn and turning circle in front of the house; relocating and improving the handicapped parking space; creating a new accessible walkway from the turning circle to the house, with a new ramp access to the front porch; adding a new threshold at the entrance to make it easier for wheelchairs to enter the building. We also produced a guided video tour of the second floor, with long-time intern Marya Makuc, for visitors who cannot climb the stairs. All of this work was accomplished just in time for the opening of the 2018 season. Throughout the summer the museum received enthusiastically positive feedback about the new entrance, and visitors marveled at how the new stonewall along the ramp fit perfectly with the look and feel of the eighteenth-century house. Overall this has been an enormous project for

Heather Kowalski

Rob Hoogs

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the museum, as you can see from the photos. We could not have done it without the support of the town and all of the residents who have donated to our capital campaign, attended our programs, and continue to enjoy the gardens and trails.

In the spring, after a bit more fundraising, the Bidwell House Museum hopes to complete the final phase of this multi-year project—the interior accessibility improvements. This will include, among other things, a new accessible restroom and a new floor in the carriage barn. As we near the end of this project it can be hard to visualize the changes that were made to the structure, which is exactly how it should be. Seamlessly incorporating these updates has been an important part of the project as we plan for the future while also preserving the past.

Don't forget—while the house may be closed for tours, the grounds and gardens are open all year, free of charge. There are over four miles of trails on the Bidwell House Museum grounds where you can take a brisk walk in the woods, cross-country ski, or learn about the Native American history of the area. Trail maps and maps of the new Native American Interpretive Trail can be found on the front porch of the house and at the kiosks on the property. You can also go to the museum website and download a PDF map of both trails on the home page.

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road in Monterey. The house will reopen for tours on Memorial Day 2019.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

## December Wildlife

Most of the wildlife sightings this time came in before our early snowfall, but since then we can see what the wild folks have been up to at night, and when our backs have been turned. Snow—the original wildlife cam.

Back before the snow last month, Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen saw "the flock of over-wintering bluebirds" near their place on New Marlboro Road. Then later came the deer, pawing through the snow in the peach orchard, hoping for some snacks.

Mary Kate Jordan, by Stevens Pond, reports a fox trail across her place and regular viewings of the fox, "very healthy and alert, with a beautiful full coat and jaunty gait."

Also in the same neighborhood, we have a report of a Bobcat holding very still in the shrubbery near a front door, waiting for any chipmunks or mice to come by. There has also been a Barred Owl in a nearby tree, with the same intent. (See photo at right.)

Out on Blue Hill Road, Ray Norrell reports a relaxed Bobcat at his place, lying on the lawn. Lynn Ryan, who was visiting, got two photos and writes, "He was only about ten feet from the house. He groomed himself, basked in the sun, and hung around for at least fifteen minutes."

Chris Goldfinger saw a Purple Finch at her place on Beartown Mountain Road, all fluffed up to stay warm, and we had one at our feeder, too.

Last month we heard from Suzanne Sawyer that she had seen two different Fishers on the same day, in her travels. One crossed a field by High Lawn Farm in Lee, and the other miles away in a field in Mill River. These large members of the weasel family are a rare sight, but this is because they are shy. They are not uncommon here.

Suzanne also saw "many turkeys" and then when she was not far from home, a big dark bird flew across Route 23 near the Roadside Store. It flew slow and low "right in front of my car . . . I saw the white tail feathers and head. It was a Bald Eagle!"

One night Cora and I drove home through Tyringham and suddenly saw, by headlight, a real vision just the other side of the guardrail. It was a Whitetail Deer, a buck with a powerful neck, glowing eyes, a strong face, and wonderful antlers. This was the kind of deer I want to call "a stag," though that term is usually saved for the big Red Deer in the UK, and these are close relatives of our Elk or Wapiti. Here we call those male Elk "bulls," the females "cows."

Thank you, all, for your news of the wild, and for your enthusiasm.

—Bonner McAllester
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## Monterey Library Photo Blog

It is getting possible now to see the new library taking shape, when you look at the floor plan and the photo at middle left.

The photo shows the footings, which are the thick reinforced concrete pads on top of which the foundation walls will sit. The footings define what will be the basement space in the east portion of the addition.

On the floor plan the two new bathrooms will be located in the front left portion of the new space. Looking at the footings in the photo, you can see the little corner setback where the bathrooms will intersect with the new general space for the stacks.

In the back right of the photo the foundation for the reading deck is visible.

Now that the footings are in place and cured, the formwork for the foundation walls can begin.

The photo at the lower left shows a concrete pumping truck brought in due to the very limited access to the back part of the site.

To stay current with the progress, go to the library website, montereymasslibrary.org, and click on the banner at the top of the home page. Library director Mark Makuc has been documenting the project and uploading the photographs.

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*The names given to me for the picture were Ralph Gregory, Lacey Gregory, Arthur "Poke" Barnum, Eleanor Heath, Camilla Harmon Smith, and Dwight Campbell himself (on far right, center row).* *—Linda Thorpe*

Dwight P Campbell
No. Egremont Ma 01252 page 2

MONTEREY RECOLLECTIONS

The hill beside the school was perhaps a little steeper even than now, and made a fine place to slide, especially since nearly all cars were "put up" for the winter; thus it was easy to watch out for the occasional horses before crossing the road and into my father's meadow. The meadow sloped fairly gradually till it came to the small stream that eventually flowed into the Konkapot.

The hooker was that sometimes the bell ending recess rang when we were down in the meadow and had to hurry back.

Only one boy I can remember had a pair of skis, Jesse Burke, who was quite expert; also the generous chap that he was, would let some of us younger ones try them out.

It wasn't until after we moved to Pittsfield that I had a pair of my own, but a very satisfactory alternative was barrel staves, which were then readily available. My Dad made me several pair with one end pointed up a little and plain leather toe straps.

This idea came sort of full circle dozens of years later in sophisticated skiing circles with the rather short ones you sometimes see now.

Speaking again of sliding, sometimes we would try to turn abruptly to the right in the road if it was packed enough, and with the slope a little steeper than now, I recall, we might go all the way to the store.

# Monterey Recollections

## Dwight P. Campbell

Linda Thorpe, one of our town's historians, has sent the *Monterey News* some archived writing by Dwight Campbell. She hopes to send more over time.

Dwight P. Campbell was born in Monterey to Fredrick and Maybelle Campbell. His father was the buttermaker at the Monterey Creamery (located on the corner of New Marlborough Road and Main Road, across from the old firehouse). His early years were spent in Monterey before the family moved to Pittsfield. He wrote a series of "recollections" in 1987. He died in Egremont, MA in 1988.

Jim Johnston

*This snowlady appeared with the first good packing snow to help welcome winter. Julie Johnston gave her a quick hug before she moved on to the neighbor's.*


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## Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc.

### MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

### Meetings and Events

**Board of Health:** Mondays, December 3 and 17, at 4 p.m.

**Conservation Commission:** Wednesday, December 12, at 6 p.m.

**Council on Aging:** Mondays, December 10 and 24, at 10 a.m.

**Visiting Nurse:** Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, December 13, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

**Parks Commission:** Wednesday, December 5, at 6 p.m.

**Planning Board:** Thursdays, December 13 and 27 at 7 p.m.

**Select Board:** Wednesdays, December 5, at 9 a.m., and December 19, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

### Town Hall Closings

Town hall will be closed Tuesday, December 25 for Christmas Day, and Tuesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.

### Other News

We are aware of the contentious atmosphere pervading the political scene in Washington, DC, and the unfortunate trickle-down effect it is having on public affairs and discourse throughout the nation. We can be better than this. Let's close out 2018 in Monterey with a wish for cooperation, respect for all and peace.

— Carol Edelman, Chair
Kenn Basler and Don Coburn
Monterey Select Board
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(don@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov.

## Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is

  **dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.**

- Police dispatch service number

  **413-236-0925**.

- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call

  **528-3211**.

## Town Contact Information

**Emergency! 911**
**Administrative Assistant**:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
**Assessor**: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
**Building Department**: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
**Community Center:** 528-3600
center@ccmonterey.org
**Fire Department** (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org
**Highway Department**: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov
**Library**: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com
**Police Department** (non-emergency): 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
**Post Office**: 528-4670
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## December Calendar

**Tuesdays:** Chair yoga, with Connie Wilson, 9 a.m., community center. Sponsored by the parks commission.

**Tuesdays except December 25:** Singing for All, led by Oren Rosenthal, 7 to 8:15 p.m., community center. See page 8.

**Saturdays, December 8 and 15:** Ping pong, 2 to 4 p.m. See page 8.

**Saturday, December 8:** Holiday cookie exchange, 9 a.m. to noon. See page 14.

**Thursday, December 6:**

Senior holiday luncheon, Mt. Everett School, 11:30 a.m. See page 4.

Darn Yarners, 1 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 8.

**Monday, December 10:** Short story discussion group, 10 a.m., community center. See page 8.

**Tuesday, December 11:** Movie night at town hall, 7 p.m. Showing *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. See page 4.

**Saturday, December 15:**

Lenox Holiday Contra Dance, live music. Calling by Sarah Van Norstrand. Early dance 5 to 7 p.m., potluck supper, evening dance 8 to 11 p.m. Lenox Community Center at 65 Walker St. Contact 528-4007. Lenox-ContraDance.org.

**Sunday, December 16:** Bidwell House history talk replay by John Demos, 1 p.m., community center. See page 22.

**Monday, December 17:**

Lake Garfield Working Group meeting, 7 p.m., town hall. See page 3.

Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., community center. See page 8.

**Wednesday, December 19:** Community potluck supper, 6 p.m. See page 8.

**Monday, December 24:** Christmas Eve service, Monterey Meetinghouse, 7 p.m. See page 5.

**Thursday, January 3:** Darn Yarners, 1 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 8.

**Thursdays, beginning January 3:** Dancersize, 5 to 6 p.m. See page 8.

To subscribe to a printable monthly calendar via email, write to montereynews9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area. Print it (one page) and forward it.

## Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

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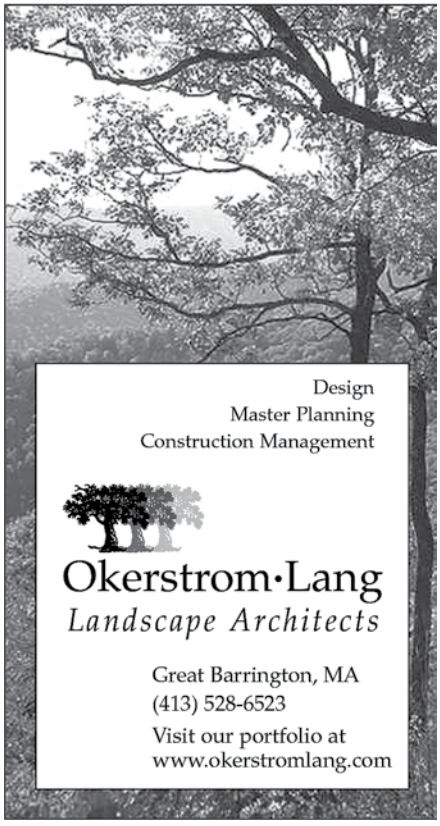

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*Contributions from local artists this month:*
*Pat Arnow, p. 27;*
*George Emmons, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, p. 16.*

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